

Application Serial No.: 09/913,906
Amdt. dated April 3, 2007
Reply to Final Office Action of November 3, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Final Office Action dated November 3, 2006 and the references cited therein have been carefully considered. In response to the Office Action, Applicants have canceled Claims 1-18 and 35-41 and have amended Claim 19 which, when considered with the remarks set forth below, are deemed to place the case in condition for allowance. As a result of the present Amendment, Claims 19-34 remain in the case for continued prosecution.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants would first like to bring to the attention of the Examiner several references cited in a related application (U.S. Application Serial No. 10/659,246). Accordingly, Applicants submit herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement for the Examiner's consideration.

Independent Method Claim 19

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner has maintained his rejection of the claims based on prior art. Specifically, the Examiner has rejected independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT Publication No. WO 98/19305 to Butcher, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,189,531 to Palmer and has rejected independent Claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Butcher patent in view of the Palmer patent and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,978,005 to Sammet and U.S. Patent No. 5,142,384 to Wood. The remaining dependent claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patents cited above and in combination with several additional patents cited in the Office Action.

In response, Applicants have canceled rejected Claims 1-18 and 35-41 and have amended independent Claim 19 to define a method for forming a plurality of storage devices for data carriers wherein, for each individual storage device, a different protective means is incorporated. More specifically, amended Claim 19 defines a method for manufacturing

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storage devices including the steps of placing a first protective means in a mold and subsequently forming at least a portion of a first storage device and then placing a second protective means in the mold and forming at least a portion of a second storage device, wherein the placing of the first and second protective means is controlled by a computer so that the product information specific to each respective data carrier can be adjusted. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited prior art references, taken alone or combined, discloses this feature.

In this regard, Applicants again respectfully point out that what is being claimed is not the specific product information or content of the indicia of the protective means itself. Instead, Applicants are simply claiming a manufacturing method for producing data carrier storage devices including the step of providing different product information to successive storage devices for improved authentication purposes. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's position regarding the lack of patentable limitations with respect to printed matter is inapplicable to method Claim 19, as amended.

Nevertheless, Applicants have further amended Claim 19 to include the further limitation that placing of the first and second protective means in the mold is controlled by a computer so that the product information contained in the protective means for each individual data carrier can be adjusted. It is respectfully submitted that the prior art does not disclose a computer controlled printing method for providing unique product specific information to individual storage devices, as defined in amended Claim 19.

In the Office Action, the Examiner correctly notes that the Butcher publication does not disclose that the information in the data carrier is incorporated with the hologram. Instead, the Butcher patent only discloses the use of a hologram for anti theft purposes. Thus, there is no mention in the Butcher patent of a computer controlled in-mold printing method for providing a direct link between a specific CD/DVD and the storage box in which the CD/DVD is to be stored.

Moreover one skilled in the art would certainly recognize that the method for providing the hologram in the Butcher patent does not involve an in-mold labeling technique,

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as set forth in amended Claim 19. Instead, the Butcher patent discloses a method wherein the hologram is provided as a sticker to be applied after the respective part has been molded.

According to the present invention, product specific information is incorporated into the product's box during molding of the box. This process is computer controlled so that each individual box is made dedicated to the specific CD or DVD, which is to be inserted within that box. Therefore the method of the present invention is totally different than that disclosed in the cited prior art.

Accordingly, for all of the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 19, as amended, and Claims 20-34, which depend therefrom, patentably distinguish over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of the application with Claims 19-34 are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would assist in moving the application toward allowance, he is respectfully invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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